

The Family First Prevention Services Act

The Family First Prevention Services Act (Family First) contains many important provisions that allow federal Title IV-E foster care funds to be used for prevention services and programs.

Family First redirects federal investments toward evidence-based prevention services and programs that are intended to prevent the need for children to enter foster care.

Enacting Family First into law is a bold step toward shifting current funding priorities toward investing in front-end prevention services and programs.



Key Provisions of the Family First Prevention Services Act

What services are funded?

- Mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment services
- In-home parent skill-based programs
- Parent education
- Individual and family counseling, and more

Who is eligible for services?

- Children at imminent risk of placement in foster care
- Parents or kinship caregivers
- A youth in foster care who is pregnant or parenting

Requirements of Service:

- Services must be trauma-informed, evidence-based or shown to be promising, supported or well-supported through evidence
- HHS will issue guidance to States regarding the practices criteria required for services or programs
- HHS will establish a clearinghouse for evidence-based practices and provide technical assistance for data collection
- State eligibility for reimbursement is contingent on inclusion of a well-designed and rigorous evaluation strategy within a state's plan. HHS may waive the requirement if evidence of the effectiveness of the practice to be compelling

State Requirements:

- Must maintain a written prevention plan for children and submit in their state plan the services and programs they plan to provide (includes information about how they will monitor, assess, train workforce etc.)
- Must report outcomes for those receiving services and costs associated

Preventing Child Fatalities:

- Requires states to develop and implement a comprehensive statewide plan to track and prevent child maltreatment fatalities, including a description of the steps the state will take to compile complete and accurate information on deaths